# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# DEFENCE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6573
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2003
CHINA VISIT
RAVI PRAKASH VERMA;REENA CHOUDHARY

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether he has visited China recently;

(b) if so, the objectives behind his visit; and

(c) the outcome of the said visit?

## Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir. Raksha Mantri visited China from April 21-27 2003.

(b) The visit was aimed at building greater trust, confidence and cooperation between the two countries, including through greater defence related contacts, exchanges and relations with a view to facilitating a resolution of problems over time.

(c) The visit provided an opportunity to meet with the new generation of the Chinese leadership, exchange views with the Chinese leadership on domestic, international and bilateral issues of mutual interest and concern, and explore areas of complementarity and cooperation between the two countries, including in the defence sphere. The meeting has paved the way for better relations between two large Asian neighbours which have historically enjoyed good relations.